

JBS “FACTS”—Alex Newman and the John Birch Society

Rev. 05/10/20

Alex Newman is the John Birch Society's most prolific contemporary essayist. He routinely posts articles online (usually on the JBS magazine website) which defend the Birch Society from critics whose articles have appeared online.

Recently, Alex focused his attention upon a *Daily Beast* website article by Ron Radosh that concerned Phyllis Schlafly.

RON RADOSH ARTICLE:

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/phyllis-schlaflly-mrs-america-was-a-secret-member-of-the-john-birch-society?ref=author>

ALEX NEWMAN REBUTTAL:

<https://www.thenewamerican.com/usnews/politics/item/35525-nevertrumper-lies-about-birch-society-schlaflly-in-daily-beast>

In particular, Mr. Radosh brought the attention of readers to documentary evidence that establishes, beyond dispute, that Phyllis was a member of the John Birch Society from 1959 to 1964 -- and his article also revealed why Phyllis decided to resign from the Society.

What I present below corrects Alex Newman's numerous errors and misrepresentations. I will address Alex's errors in the order which they appear in his article.

1. DISHONEST HIT PIECE

Newman opens his attack upon the Radosh article by describing it as a “**dishonest hit piece**”. This is Newman's routine description of ALL articles which criticize the Birch Society. See, for example, Newman's December 2019 attack upon conservative columnist Jonathan Tobin

<https://www.thenewamerican.com/usnews/politics/item/34284-neocon-tobin-dupes-ny-post-haaretz-readers-on-birch-society> in which Newman declares that Tobin is “**lying about and demonizing the JBS with blatant falsehoods**”.

Significantly, no defender of the Birch Society believes that **ANY** JBS critic is ever knowledgeable, honorable, principled, or attempting to present factual evidence. In the Birch Society scheme of things, readers must ALWAYS accept the JBS interpretation of JBS history. No

contradictory data is EVER acceptable or worthy of consideration—even when it originates from current or former prominent JBS members.

2. RON RADOSH DESCRIBED AS “A FORMER COMMUNIST PARTY USA OPERATIVE”

This is another standard Birch Society tactic. All information presented is de-valued and maligned because of the alleged “*former*” links or associations of the author. However, when **any** derogatory background data about JBS members or JBS defenders is presented, that data is always described as “*Lies*” and “*smears*”.

3. DEFAMING PHYLLIS SCHLAFLY and “THE GRASSROOTS JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY”

No matter what accumulation of factual evidence is presented, Birchers like Alex Newman always consider it “*defamatory*”.

Oddly, Newman never bothers to discuss the defamation lawsuits which the Birch Society and its surrogates have lost over the decades. The most famous of which, is the libel verdict against Robert Welch, Inc. (the publishing arm of the JBS) because of a maliciously false article which was published in the JBS magazine (*American Opinion*) about Chicago lawyer Elmer Gertz.

Gertz devoted 14 years to litigating his case (1969-1983). There were two jury trials, numerous appeals, and ultimately review by the U.S. Supreme Court. The end result was that the JBS paid Gertz \$100,000 in compensatory damages and \$300,000 in punitive damages (for malice) which, in legalese, is “*reckless disregard for truth*”. Because the JBS appealed the lower court decisions, it paid interest on the original amounts and, consequently, they paid Gertz about \$500,000 by the end of the legal proceedings. That is about \$2 million in 2020 dollars.

The defective reasoning which the Birch Society applied in the Gertz matter is still prevalent in JBS “*reasoning*” today – as revealed in Alex Newman’s articles.

4. MAJOR FACTUAL ERRORS AND OUTRIGHT DECEPTION EMPLOYED BY RON RADOSH

There are some relatively minor factual errors in Ron Radosh’s article. I will address the comments by Alex Newman in this section.

Newman says that Radosh “*falsely claims to reveal something ‘new’*” re: Schlafly’s membership in the JBS. Newman then presents a major falsehood of his own, i.e. that Schlafly’s JBS membership “*has been*

widely reported for many years by news outlets and political organizations".

Significantly, Newman does not provide any examples to substantiate his claim except for referring to an online article by the Southern Poverty Law Center when Schlafly passed away in 2016.

Let's be very clear about this.

At no time has any national news source OR any academic scholar been able to prove that Schlafly was a JBS member before this year.

There was, of course, speculation or rumor, but even Schlafly's only two biographers (Carl Felsenthal in 1981 and Dr. Donald T. Critchlow in 2005) were NOT able to establish her membership which, by the way, **she always publicly denied**. Even during a 2011 interview, Schlafly denied ever being a JBS member. See her interview by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library here:

https://www2.illinois.gov/alplm/library/collections/OralHistory/illinoisstatecraft/era/Documents/SchlaflyPhyllis/Schlafly_Phy_4_FNL.pdf

The SPLC article reached a very small audience and it was not reprinted in any national news source so Alex Newman's hostile commentary merely reflects his own personal ignorance regarding this matter. In the interest of full disclosure, I was the person who sent the SPLC journalist a copy of the original 1959 letter by Phyllis.

See this revealing April 20, 2020 tweet by Newman - which, once again, reveals his intellectual dishonesty and analytical incompetence:



Alex Newman@ALEXNEWMAN_JOU_Apr 20 @thedailybeast @TheDemocrats @RonRadosh Scoop? Really? Capital Times reported this earlier, lol: "*In fact, she was a foreign policy hawk and John Birch Society member who had made several unsuccessful runs for office before shifting to the grassroots.*" madison.com/ct/entertainme... @Ernie1241 is a liar with ax to grind

Newman refers readers to an April 20, 2020 article in the Madison, WI “*Capitol Times*” authored by Rob Thomas. The Thomas article is a review of the new Hulu TV series. **How does that prove Newman’s point?**

I contacted Mr. Thomas regarding WHEN and WHERE he discovered his information re: Schlafly being a JBS member and here is his reply:

Robert Thomas RThomas@madison.com

To: **Ernie** ernie1241@aol.com

Hi Ernie,

Thanks for writing. I took that from the Wikipedia page for Schlafly, which cites this article from The Daily Beast:

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/phyllis-schlaflly-mrs-america-was-a-secret-member-of-the-john-birch-society?source=articles&via=rss>

Take care,

Rob Thomas / Features Editor
1901 Fish Hatchery Road • Madison, WI 53713
Office: 608-252-6464 • Mobile: 608-628-0710

So, Newman tells us that Radosh’s article in the *Daily Beast* did NOT present any new information and, consequently, was not really any “*scoop*”. The “*proof*” which Newman presents is a link to the article by Robert Thomas BUT Thomas based his article’s statements re: Schlafly’s JBS membership upon Ron Radosh’s article!!! THAT is the quality of Newman’s analytical skill!

With reference to the 1964 letter by Robert Welch which Ron Radosh mentions in his *Daily Beast* article, that was discovered by me in **February of 2020**. I shared that letter with interested parties BUT nobody published anything about it until Ron Radosh’s article.

In short, nobody had **any** idea WHEN or WHY Phyllis resigned from the JBS **until one month ago**. Alex Newman is totally mistaken about that aspect of Radosh’s article. One last correction: the letters I discovered were not obtained through FOIA requests. This is an understandable error by Ron Radosh because he (and scores of other historians) know about my collection of government agency records that WERE obtained over the past 38 years by **my FOIA requests**.

5. SO WHAT?

Newman’s next comment is “**Secondly, so what? There is nothing wrong with belonging to a patriotic organization...**”

The problem with Newman's comment is that the JBS is **NOT** a "*patriotic organization*".

Since its inception in December 1958, the JBS has maligned virtually **all** of our national political leadership with accusations that our political leaders have been "Communists", "Communist sympathizers", or "agents" of a vast criminal conspiracy whose objective was, allegedly, to bring the U.S. into a "one-world socialist dictatorship".

For example: Quoted below is what JBS founder, Robert Welch, told the very first meeting of the JBS National Council.

Does this sound like what ANY "*patriotic organization*" would write about both Democrats and Republicans?

The following comments are quoted from:

"A Confidential Report to Members of The COUNCIL of The John Birch Society" - which are the minutes of the 1/9/60 meeting of the JBS National Council which was held at Union League Club in Chicago IL which may be seen on my *Documentary History of the JBS* webpage here: <https://sites.google.com/site/ernie1241/> .

Pages 1 and 2:

"From a careful and realistic study of the mountainous pile of evidence that is there for all to see, certain terrifying conclusions are objectively inescapable.

Among them are:

- (1) The Communists are winning their large victories, as they always have, through the cumulative effect of small gains;
- (2) They make these gains chiefly through the conniving assistance of many of the very diplomats and officials who are supposed to be opposing them;
- (3) Communist influences are now in almost complete working control of our government;
- (4) And hence, the United States Government is today, as it has been for many years, the most important and powerful single force promoting the world-wide Communist advance."

Furthermore, Welch continued:

"Today, gentlemen, I can assure you, without the slightest doubt in my own mind, that the takeover at the top is, for all practical purposes, virtually complete. Whether you like it or not, or whether you believe it or not, our Federal Government is already, literally in the hands of the Communists."

"In our two states with the largest population, New York and California...already the two present Governors are almost certainly actual Communists...Our Congress now contains a number of men like Adam Clayton Powell of New York and Charles Porter of Oregon, who are certainly actual Communists, and plenty more who are sympathetic to Communist purposes for either ideological or opportunistic reasons." [Ibid, page 7] [Note: the reference to Governors refers to Edmund G. Brown of California and Nelson Rockefeller of New York.]

"In the Senate, there are men like Stephen Young of Ohio, and Wayne Morse of Oregon, McNamara of Michigan, and Clifford Case of New Jersey and Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota and Estes Kefauver of Tennessee and John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts, whom it is utter folly to think of as just liberals. Every one of those men is either an actual Communist or so completely a Communist sympathizer or agent that it makes no practical difference..." [Ibid, page 8]

"Our Supreme Court, dominated by Earl Warren and Felix Frankfurter and Hugo Black, is so visibly pro-Communist that no argument is even needed...And our federal courts below that level...are in many cases just as bad." [Ibid, page 8]

"Our State Department is loaded with Communists from top to bottom, to the extent that our roll call of Ambassadors almost sounds like a list somebody has put together to start a Communist front." ... [Ibid, page 8]

"It is estimated from many reliable sources that from 70% to 90% of the responsible personnel in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare are Communists. Our Central Intelligence Agency under Allen Dulles is nothing more or less than an agency to promote Communism throughout the world...Almost all the other Departments are loaded with Communists and Communist sympathizers. And this generalization most specifically does include our whole Defense Department." [Ibid, page 8]

Public comments by Welch were so vicious that hundreds of concerned citizens contacted the FBI to inquire if the JBS was actually a Communist organization (!) whose purpose was to subvert our country by maligning and discrediting all of our institutions and political leaders!

In addition, virtually the entire conservative movement in the United States denounced and rejected Welch and the JBS because of this type of commentary which one major conservative figure described as "*paranoid and unpatriotic drivel*"

So much for Newman's "patriotic organization" argument.

6. THE JBS DID NOT SUPPORT SEGREGATION

Newman claims that:

"Of course, in the real world, not only did the JBS never support segregation, many of its leading members and leaders - including top black activists such as George Schuyler, Manning Johnson, Julia Brown, and others--- helped lead the fight against racism, racial collectivism, government-enforced segregation, discrimination, and so on."

Of course, Newman does NOT provide any corroboration for these absurd claims because the actual historical record is precisely opposite.

I have addressed Newman's falsehoods in an exhaustive online Report which makes use of JBS literature to demonstrate how the JBS advanced and protected segregation.

Interested readers can review that 109-page report at the link shown below. That Report includes an 81-page *Chronology* which shows the extensive links and associations which the JBS had with all sorts of racial and religious bigots - including employing them as speakers and writers for the JBS.

<https://sites.google.com/site/aboutxr/home/jbs-racism3>

One of the problems here is that JBS defenders like Newman never get around to telling us how THEY define racism or "*support*" for segregation. Until that is explained, no serious discussion can take place.

However, we should recognize how JBS founder Robert Welch addressed this issue.

JBS founder, Robert Welch, told one interviewer that claims of Negro oppression were '*phony issues*' and that only a "*very small minority of Negroes in the South are denied their voting rights because they are Negroes.*"

Welch continued:

"I wouldn't say that there are no places where Negroes are handicapped in voting, but where they are, it is minor."

BY CONTRAST:

One very prominent African American author and columnist whom Alex Newman and the Birch Society often cite as their preferred source of reliable information (George S. Schuyler) wrote the following comments about a year BEFORE he became a John Birch Society member and paid JBS speaker:

"THE WHITE Citizens Council which has branches or cells everywhere, controls by terror such states as Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, and to a lesser extent, Virginia. It has castigated the Supreme Court in general and the Chief Justice in particular. It has defied and disrupted the operation of the laws of the land. It has used threats and vicious economic reprisals. It is as undemocratic as the John Birch Society and it exacts large sums of money from its followers. It has become a legal arm of Mississippi's Government. Why no furore to investigate the White Citizens Council?"

[George S. Schuyler: "*Views and Reviews*", *New Pittsburgh Courier*, National edition; [Pittsburgh PA] 04-22-61, page 8].

Welch also claimed that Martin Luther King Jr. was "**trained at a Communist school**". When a reporter asked Welch where that was, Welch stated:

"He was trained at the Monteagle school in Tennessee about eight years ago. The records on the people running it are quite clear." [03/09/65, *Los Angeles Times*, page 1, Paul Beck: "*Welch Speaks Out: Negroes Raise Phony Issues*"]

It must have been fast "training" because King was at Highlander Folk School (HFS) only one time for one hour to give a speech (*The Look to the Future*) -which you can read here:

<https://repository.duke.edu/dc/broadsides/bdsal40033>

The person responsible for making the claim that HFS was a "**Communist training school**" was Edwin H. Friend. He was the official photographer for the United Klans of America chapter in Georgia (and he was a friend of Grand Dragon Calvin Craig).

The FBI file about HFS points out that he was hired by the Georgia Commission on Education -- a state agency created to **preserve segregated public schools in Georgia.**

That same FBI file declares that racists originally made the accusation that HFS was a "*Communist training school*" because they were opposed to ANY form of racial integration.

What did Edwin Friend think his assignment was?

Friend's answer to that question may be found in a deposition he submitted in November 1959 for Tennessee court proceedings. Friend said that his assignment as a Georgia "undercover agent" was "to go to Monteagle, Tennessee to the Highlander Folk School and find out whether that malignancy of the NAACP and Communism was leaking out over Georgia." [John Edgerton, "*The Trial of the Highlander Folk School*", *Southern Exposure*, Spring 1978, p 86.]

Using the "findings" of "investigator" Friend, the GCE published a pamphlet with the title, "*Highlander Folk School: Communist Training School - Monteagle Tenn.*"

You may see a copy here: <https://tinyurl.com/y7xrvqen>

What was particularly compelling about the GCE pamphlet about Highlander were the photographs provided by "investigator" Edwin Friend which showed interracial activities such as square dancing, swimming, and blacks and whites eating together.

Friend also took the famous photograph of "*Martin Luther King attending a Communist Training School*". The GCE circulated over 250,000 copies of its Highlander "expose" and Georgia Governor Marvin Griffin authorized reprints with or without credit being given to GCE.

Edwin Friend testified before a Tennessee legislative hearing concerning what he "Learned" during his "investigation" of Highlander. The excerpt appearing below reveals his underlying motivation and the basis for him describing Highlander as a "*Communist Training School*".

Q: Mr. Friend, was that a subversive meeting there at that time?

A: It was subversive, sir, to the way that I have been taught to live in America.

Q: Explain that to the committee.

A: I have been taught by southern tradition to keep the races separate. I was taught to go to Sunday school and Church. I was taught to respect the other fellow's habitat, and that is what I have always tried to do. Up here it seems like all of those things weren't even considered.

It is the primary motive of this group to tear down the forces that were trying to keep the races separate in the South."

[Joint Legislative Investigating Committee, State of Tennessee: *Investigation of Highlander Folk School, Grundy County Tennessee*, 3/4/59, page 447.]

A copy of Ed Friend's testimony has been uploaded into my Internet Archive webpage (link below):

<https://archive.org/details/friendedwihntestimony030459>

THAT is who Robert Welch relied upon for his information regarding HFS and MLK Jr. i.e. white supremacists!

THAT is why Robert Welch attended, and was a featured speaker at, the September 14-16, 1956 National Conference of States Rights held in Memphis TN. [per G. Edward Griffin: *The Life and Words of Robert Welch—Founder of the John Birch Society*; American Media, 1975, page 254. **Note:** Mr. Griffin was one of only four people who were authorized to speak officially for the John Birch Society.]

As one historian correctly observed about this Conference:

“Generally, individuals within or closely associated with southern white supremacy organizations provided the nucleus of leadership for the states’ rights campaign.” [Numan V. Bartley, *The Rise of Massive Resistance*, Louisiana State University Press, 1969, page 165].

The Conference was organized by John U. Barr, a wealthy New Orleans businessman who was another life-long segregationist. He later became a JBS member. Both the temporary Chairman and the permanent Chairman of this event (Robert C. Chandler and Earl Evans respectively) were segregationists. The purpose of this event was to coordinate anti-integration activities by white supremacists across the south.

In 1956 Robert Welch left the GOP to campaign and vote for a life-long segregationist (T. Coleman Andrews Sr.) who was running on the States Rights Party ticket.

The States Right Party platform at that time advocated “**segregation, interposition**” and it favored adoption of the principles contained in the anti-integration “**Southern Manifesto**”.

As pointed out in every standard history of the States Rights Party:

<http://www.ourcampaigns.com/PartyDetail.html?PartyID=45>

"The States' Rights Party broke from the Democratic Party in 1948. The Party opposed racial integration and wanted to retain Jim Crow laws and racial segregation. The party slogan was '*Segregation Forever!*' "

One wonders if Newman thinks that associating oneself with a political party and its candidates who believe in "*Segregation Forever*" constitutes "support" for segregation?

In 1976, Welch again voted for another life-long segregationist, i.e. Thomas J. Anderson who ran on the American Party ticket.

Anderson wrote a long article for the JBS magazine, *American Opinion*, entitled "*Reflections of a Southern Segregationist*", *American Opinion* magazine, February 1965, page 24].

Later, Anderson wrote an article justifying slavery for the racist and pro-Klan Louisiana newsletter, *The Councilor*, entitled "*Tom Anderson Says Blacks Should Be Grateful to Whites*".

In that article, Anderson wrote:

"**The Blacks never have thanked the Whites for buying them into slavery. Except for that they'd still be in the Congo. And almost anybody will admit that even Chicago is better than Lusambo. What stable and civilized republic in all history was predominantly or even substantially Negro? None. What high culture have Negroes anytime, anywhere produced themselves? None. What high culture, once achieved, ever remained a high culture once it became substantially mixed with Negro bloodlines? None. What Negro Republic or free civilization now or ever has shown the necessary attributes of character, self-control, self-reliance, self-responsibility, and self-help to build and maintain a great civilization? None.**" [Thomas J. Anderson, "*Tom Anderson Says Blacks Should Be Grateful to Whites*", *The Councilor*, 7/21/72, page 1].

The Councilor was the official publication of the racist Citizens Council of Louisiana. Ned Touchstone was its Editor. Touchstone was described by the FBI as a KKK member and as a "**rabid segregationist**" [FBI-HQ 105-44536, serial #37 dated 7/27/66]. In November 1965, Touchstone was the keynote speaker at a Mississippi Knights of the KKK rally in North Biloxi MS. He sold racist and anti-semitic publications through his National Biographic Society.

Given this background, it should not surprise anybody to learn that Tom Anderson became Chairman of the "*American Friends of John Rarick*"

which supported Rarick's re-election campaign for the 6th Congressional District of Louisiana.

In 1963, Rarick joined the Original Knights of the KKK in St. Francisville LA. That same year Rarick wrote a letter to Willie Rainach, Rarick observed that:

"The only answer for the Southern and all white people is to have a secret underground army prepared to take whatever steps as are necessary to defend ourselves." [10/27/63 Rarick letter in William M. Rainach Papers, Collection 087, archived at Louisiana State University-Shreveport].

In 1964, Rarick became Exalted Cyclops of his klavern of the Original Knights of the KKK during the time when he still served as a District Judge. This position made him the President of his Klan unit. The OKKK subsequently became known in February 1965 as the Anti-Communist Christian Association.

In 1965, Rarick was a speaker at a rally in Baton Rouge LA sponsored by "*United Conservatives*" which actually was a front for the racist Citizens Councils of Louisiana. [FBI-HQ 105-44536, serial #35].

In 1965, during the time Rarick served as a Circuit Judge, he told African American New Orleans civil rights attorney Lolis Edward Ely: **"I didn't know they let coons practice law."** [Los Angeles Times, 1/23/68, page 5 = Jack Nelson: "*Negro Attorney Claims Judge Harassed Him*".]

Also, in 1965, John Rarick and Selma AL Sheriff James G. Clark were featured guests at the United Conservative Rally and Parade in Bogalusa LA which was sponsored by the Anti-Communist Christian Association (ACCA). The ACCA was a Klan front group. [For ACCA description, see FBI-HQ 157-3676, page 7 which is an Appendix summary on the ACCA which appears in FBI HQ file on Klansman James Ford Seale.]

Other members of the "*Friends*" group included JBS members/endorsers: Edwin A. Walker, Pedro del Valle, Curtis Dall, J. Evetts Haley, Richard B. Cotten, Richard Moran, George Stratemeyer, Billy James Hargis and W. Cleon Skousen. Most of these men were segregationists.

In 1969 Rarick helped form the National Youth Alliance which was Willis Carto's neo-nazi group. The FBI's description of the NYA:

"NYA currently is controlled by individuals who militantly promote white racism and anti-Zionism and who suggest violent revolution

ultimately as the means for implementing their racial and political ideas in America.”

William Pierce (former Information Officer of National Socialist White People's Party) was the registered agent of the new corporation and Editor of NYA publications *Attack* and *Action*.

In 1970, just prior to the August 1970 primary election in Louisiana for the 6th Congressional District seat, Imperial Wizard Robert M. Shelton of Alabama visited Louisiana “**and told a Klan rally that the nation needed more men like Rarick and Wallace.**” (i.e. Alabama Governor George Wallace). [Ruston LA Daily Leader, 8/17/70, p13].

If that was not enough, Rarick was a supporter of, and gave opening speeches at rallies by, Klansman David Duke.

Nevertheless, Rarick was invited by Robert Welch to write articles for the John Birch Society magazines, (*American Opinion* and *Review of the News*). He also was invited by Robert Welch to be the featured speaker at a John Birch Society National Council dinner in Los Angeles -- which he did in March 1973. On 03/02/73, Rarick spoke at JBS National Council Dinner (“*The Finances of the United Nations*”) Rarick was paid \$300 for a 15-minute speech.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u8XjarMQkyI>

This is also confirmed by letters written by JBS Public Relations Director John McManus to Tom Anderson dated 2/14/73 and 2/12/73. These letters appear in Tom Anderson’s papers which are archived at the University of Wyoming.

Robert Welch had a habit of cozying up to racists. In December 1965, Welch invited the notorious racist Sheriff of Selma Alabama (Jim Clark) to be the featured speaker at a JBS National Council dinner. Clark was also a paid speaker under the auspices of the JBS Speakers Bureau!

In July 1963, Welch invited segregationist U.S. Senator Strom Thurmond to accept appointment to the JBS National Council.

Welch invited numerous life-long segregationists to become members of the JBS (including Andrews and Anderson) AND he elevated at least 4 of them to the JBS National Council. Welch employed racists as speakers for the JBS -- such as Rev. Ferrell Griswold who told the FBI that the Ku Klux Klan was a “**conservative**” and “**patriotic**” organization -- which is why he spoke at their events

--even though the KKK had been listed on the U.S. Attorney General's List of Subversive Organizations since 1947!

Does Newman consider any of this as "support" for segregation by Welch and the JBS?

7. ROBERT WELCH ARTICLE, "A LETTER TO THE SOUTH ON SEGREGATION"

Like many JBS members (and defenders) Newman refers to the 1956 article by Welch mentioned above. Ironically, Newman inserts a link to Welch's article without mentioning that the online version is from MY Internet Archive webpage!

Newman claims that Welch's article proves that Welch was opposed to segregation and Welch **"argued that segregation was on its way out, that this demise was a good thing, and that the communist exploitation of the 'civil rights' cause had set back this progress by a generation."**

However, at no point does Newman actually QUOTE what Welch wrote.

Welch argued that the May 17, 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision on de-segregation was **not** Constitutional because it revised the 10th and 14th Amendments by fiat and made educational policies subject to federal control rather than the intended state control.

Furthermore, Welch maintained that the 1896 *Plessy v Ferguson* Supreme Court decision **correctly** validated "**separate but equal schools or any other public facilities for colored people and white people fulfilled the requirements of the Fourteenth Amendment. This was in accordance with legal precedent which had already prevailed since the Amendment had been adopted in 1868.**" For details re: the *Plessy* decision, see: <https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/plessy-v-ferguson>

Then Welch discussed what he considered to be the "**Communist sympathies and connections of the 'authorities' on modern psychology to which the Court referred in its decision, and on which its action was theoretically based.**"

It is important to understand the underlying principles which Mr. Welch was affirming in his article. In effect, Welch was leaving black Americans to the mercy of the states and Welch clearly understood that doing so put African Americans in a position of legal inferiority - which is the precise import of the 1896 *Plessy* decision.

In *Plessy v. Ferguson* (163 U.S. 537), the Supreme Court was asked to consider a Louisiana act which required "**separate but equal**" accommodations in transportation facilities (a typical Jim Crow law).

The Act imposed a penalty for passengers who chose to sit in an area assigned to the other race.

One passenger who had one great-grand-parent who was black, sat in a car reserved for white passengers and he was arrested. The Supreme Court held that the Louisiana Act was a reasonable exercise of the state's police power because segregation was not discrimination.

Welch's legal argument reduced African Americans to "[the condition of a subject race](#)" (to quote a comment from Justice Harlan's dissent). In Mississippi, for example, it was a crime to publish a statement advocating or suggesting social equality of the races.

It should also be noted that segregation laws (or other laws which took note of a person's race or color) during the period which Welch refers to, require statutory or judicial definitions of the term "Negro". All those definitions are made from the standpoint of the white person who seeks to avoid contact with any person he deems to be a "Negro".

Consequently, in some states, anyone with any trace of Negro blood (no matter how distantly) was classified as a "Negro". This arbitrary standard is what Welch believed was required by American law. BTW, in Mississippi, Chinese children were sent to black schools.

Furthermore, acceptance of Welch's argument meant adopting a standard which was intended as the basis for prohibiting marriage of white persons with persons of color (prohibited in 29 states) and which required segregation of the races in interstate passenger traffic and in hospitals, and penal institutions, and in educational institutions—even when those facilities were not "equal". For example, in 1948-1949, the U.S. Office of Education reported that Mississippi spent an average of \$123 per white pupil in grade and high schools whereas they spent only \$27 per black pupil. Most other states spent considerably less per black student.

This background helps explain why Welch attended and was a featured speaker at the September 14-16, 1956 National Conference of States Rights held in Memphis TN. [per G. Edward Griffin: *The Life and Words of Robert Welch—Founder of the John Birch Society*; American Media, 1975, page 254. Note: Mr. Griffin was one of only four people who were authorized to speak officially for the John Birch Society.]

To give readers an idea about the type of persons at this 1956 Conference whom Robert Welch considered **his allies**, consider the following persons who were among the delegates and officers attending this Conference:

- Robert C. Chandler of Shreveport LA. Chandler was an attorney who co-founded the States Rights Party of Louisiana in 1956 to oppose racial integration of public schools. He served as Temporary Chairman of this September Conference. He also served as President of the Shreveport White Citizens Council.
- Earl Evans Jr. of Canton MS. Evans was the permanent Chairman of this Conference. He was a “**bitter opponent**” of equalizing white and black schools according to the *Hattiesburg MS American*, 5/19/54, page 1.
- Joseph Beauharnais of Chicago. He founded the racist White Circle League of America. Beauharnais was listed as a “**racial extremist**” by the FBI-Chicago office which described him as follows: “...**founder and organizer of the White Circle League**” and “**in 1949 was described as ‘psycho’ in connection with his hatred of the Negro race. Since 1952, Beauharnais has been in several Midwestern cities to speak before conventions of organizations that were and are anti-Negro, anti-Semitic, or both. Beauharnais is an associate of known ‘hate’ subjects and/or ‘hate’ organizations in the Chicago area.**” [FBI-HQ file 157-1-9, serial #24, 8/21/59]
- Sims Crownover of Tennessee. He was an attorney who represented the pro-segregation Federation For Constitutional Government (FCG). In May 1956, Crownover fought **against** a Davidson County TN decision which declared that racial segregation laws in that County were invalid [*Kingsport TN Times*, 5/8/56, page 1]. Crownover advocated the doctrine of interposition to invalidate the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court desegregation decision. [See his August 1956 *American Bar Association Journal* article entitled “*The Segregation Cases*” pages 727-729].
- Ed Worthington of Memphis. Worthington was a member of the Memphis White Citizens Council
- Mrs. Terry Mulhall of Sioux City IA, representing the Constitution Party of Iowa. The Constitution Party of the 1950’s and 1960’s attracted the most virulent racists and anti-semites in the U.S.
- Edward Reed Fields of Iowa represented the Constitution Party. In 1946, while he was in high school, Fields joined Emory Burke’s new Atlanta-based organization, The Columbians, the first openly neo-nazi organization in postwar America. [NOTE: The Columbians was listed as a subversive fascist organization by the Attorney General of the United States.]

While in high school, Fields also created a short-lived pro-nazi group of his own called the Black Front. In the early 1950’s Fields joined

J.B. Stoner's Christian Anti-Jewish Party (CAJP) and he became its Executive Secretary. The CAJP was created in 1945 by Stoner and Emmett O'Neill Morris in Tennessee. Both Stoner and Morris had been pro-nazi during World War II. In 1955, the Texas Attorney General listed Fields as a leader of the U.S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. In November 1957 the United White Party was organized. Its principals included Edward Fields, Emory Burke (The Columbians), Matt Koehl, John Kasper (Seaboard White Citizens Council), John G. Crommelin, Millard Grubbs, and many other individuals whom the FBI described as "**a group of notorious anti-semites**". [FBI-HQ file 105-66233, serial #11; 1/22/58]

This States' Rights Conference endorsed segregationist Democrat T. Coleman Andrews of Richmond VA for President and Republican Thomas H. Werdel of Bakersfield CA for Vice President. Andrews later became a founding member of the John Birch Society and he served on its National Council. **Robert Welch campaigned and voted for Andrews.** The "*National Committee for T. Coleman Andrews and Thomas H. Werdel*" was composed of numerous racists including men who later became members or endorsers of the JBS including John U. Barr (Co-Chairman), A.G. Heinsohn Jr. (Co-Treasurer), J. Evetts Haley, and Dan Smoot.

Andrews also created (with his son) a pro-segregation organization in Richmond VA called the Patrick Henry Group (PHG).

The PHG produced and disseminated publications which asserted that Negroes were inferior to whites. For example, the PHG distributed Dr. Henry E. Garrett's booklet, "*How Classroom Desegregation Will Work*" which claimed that de-segregation can't work because blacks are biologically inferior.

John J. Synon was the Director of PHG and he was a JBS endorser. Synon was the public relations adviser to Coleman Andrews. In 1965, Synon was Director of the Coordinating Committee For Fundamental American Freedoms (which opposed the 1964 civil rights bill). Synon was also involved with Citizens Councils of America and he contributed articles to its official monthly journal, *The Citizen*.

Does any of this qualify as "support" for segregation, in Newman's scheme of things?

8. BLACK MEMBERS OF THE JBS

Newman enthusiastically refers readers to a comment by former JBS President John F. McManus concerning "**at least nine Black Americans who were speakers on our JBS Speakers Bureau**".

McManus is too modest. Here is a more comprehensive listing of black JBS speakers:

Former FBI informant Manning Johnson

Former FBI informant Julia Clarice Brown

Former FBI informant Lola Belle Holmes

Former FBI informant Gerald Kirk

Former FBI informant Leonard Patterson

Pastor C. Fain Kyle (Conservative Christian Churches of America, Richmond CA)

Rev. Uriah J. Fields (Montgomery AL)

Rev. Henry Mitchell (Chicago IL)

Rev. E. Freeman Yearling (National Negro Congress of Racial Pride Inc., West Hempstead NY)

Rev. J.L. Ward (Memphis TN)

Rev. Steven Craft (Baptist Minister, NJ)

Gwendolyn Kyle (Richmond CA)

Donald L. Jackson (Buffalo NY)

Ezola B. Foster (2000 VP nominee, Reform Party)

George S. Schuyler (African American columnist and author) and his daughter Philippa Duke Schuyler.

Charles E. Smith (publisher, *Voice of Watts* – Los Angeles CA)

Alvin D. Smith (publisher *Butler County OH American*)

Newman and McManus both want us to believe that the JBS could not possibly be described as facilitating racism or pandering to racists just because of the number of black Americans who were members of, or paid speakers for, the JBS.

However, the Communist Party USA had at least **20-30 times as many black Party members as the JBS**--and even more significantly---**UNLIKE** the Birch Society, the Communist Party elevated many black Party members into senior positions within the Party.

NEVERTHELESS, it is very clear that there were MAJOR arguments within the CPUSA between white and black members – particularly between their African-American leaders such as Claude Lightfoot, Benjamin Davis Jr., Pettis Perry, and James Jackson and white leaders like Gus Hall.

Often, the black CPUSA leaders characterized the white CPUSA leadership as racist in their beliefs and practices. Black Party members complained bitterly about “**white chauvinism**” within the Party. Some of the corroboration for this situation within the CPUSA can be found in testimony by African Americans who later became JBS members and speakers--such as Julia Brown and Lola Belle Holmes.

For example, Julia Brown told the FBI that: “**She has stated that she has found absolutely as much ‘racial prejudice’ and ‘white chauvinism’ in the CP as ‘there is in Mississippi’.** And that many Negroes who have been duped by the CP and who have become ‘tools’ of the Party, need to have ‘**their eyes opened**’. [FBI-Los Angeles 100-54554, serial #489; 2/5/60, in CPUSA-COINTELPRO file re: Julia C. Brown]

During her June 4, 1962 testimony before the House Committee on Un-American Activities Julia declared she was not allowed to attend her neighborhood Communist club meetings “**because it was a Jim Crow club.**”

So, the assurances of Newman and McManus (based merely upon number or presence of black members within the JBS) mean absolutely **NOTHING!**

Also: contrary to what Newman wrote, the black Americans whom he listed were NOT “**top black activists**” AND Manning Johnson, Julia Brown, “*and others*” associated with the JBS never “**helped lead the fight against racism, racial collectivism, government-enforced segregation, discrimination, and so on**” -- which is why none of our national civil rights organizations considered them to be allies in the fight for racial justice.

MORE importantly, when one conducts independent research into some of the more prominent black JBS members, there is considerable evidence to support the argument that they were nothing but window-dressing for the Society.

Robert Welch admitted that the Society had very few black members. In November 1965, Robert Welch told a *Washington Post* reporter that “**1/10 of 1% of JBS members were Negro**” and Welch claimed that the JBS had 80,000-100,000 members which would mean about 80-100 black members.

However, based upon JBS membership dues payments at that time, the JBS actually had only about 29,800 members in 1965 so if the percentage of black members mentioned by Welch was accurate, then the JBS only had about 30 black members.

Since Newman specifically refers to Julia Brown in his article, it would helpful to point out the following FACTS concerning Julia:

In her 1966 book "*I Testify: My Years As An FBI Undercover Agent*" published by the Birch Society (which actually was ghost-written by Hollywood actor Carleton Young), Julia gives a fictitious account of her marital history as well as false details concerning why she joined and left the Communist Party. Other details in the book are also wrong.

According to Julia, she married her first husband (Edward Harris) while she was a teenager but he died. [Julia Brown, *I Testify: My Years as An Undercover Agent for the FBI*, Western Islands Publishers, 1966, page 11]. Her next mention of marriage is many years later to Curlee Brown of Cleveland.

In reality, however, Julia divorced Edward Harris, then married Jack Latimer and divorced him, then married Fred Brice and divorced him the same year she married him, and then married Curlee Brown but considered divorcing him as well.

When Carleton Young submitted two chapters of "*I Testify*" to Julia for review in March 1963, she initially rejected the material. Julia told the Los Angeles FBI field office that Mr. Young was expressing his personal political views rather than her views and she characterized Young as an adherent of the "**lunatic right**" which she described as "**Birchers**"!

"She stated the two chapters did not, in any way, deal with her life or work in the Communist Party, but were rather expressions of the political thinking of YOUNG, which is contrary to hers. Mrs. Brown stated YOUNG has fallen under the influence of the 'Birchers' and that the two chapters she read were a harangue against the present and past administrations, the armed forces, and government in general." [FBI-Los Angeles, Julia C. Brown file, no file number provided, serial #A-119; 3/28/63 Special Agent in Charge of Los Angeles field office to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover.]

"Brown indicated that YOUNG adheres to the political philosophy of the 'lunatic right' and that she had already insisted that several chapters be deleted." [FBI-Los Angeles, Julia C. Brown file, no file number provided, serial #A-129; 8/8/63 Special Agent in Charge, Los

Angeles field office to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover.] For details see following file:

<https://archive.org/details/BROWNJuliaClariceLosAngelesA1ThruA161/page/n173/mode/2up>

Julia's opinions about the civil rights movement, and prominent leaders and organizations within it, underwent a stunning reversal after she associated herself with the Birch Society as a paid speaker.

In a March 1961 magazine interview, Julia stated that Communists had "**little or no influence**" within the NAACP and she concluded that:

"I'm 100 percent with the NAACP and I think they are doing a wonderful job. Top government officials are aware that the NAACP is legal and is working in the American way for first class citizenship for all Americans." [Ebony magazine, "I Was A Spy For The FBI", March 1961, page 102].

Ebony magazine also reported that during her interview, Julia stated that:

"The extent of Communist penetration among Negroes is sometimes exaggerated by well-meaning but uninformed persons. She disagrees with former President Truman who was quoted as saying the sit-in movement was Communist-inspired. Mrs. Brown, who attended state and national Party conventions says: 'The sit-in movement was not Communist-inspired, but the Communists have tried to infiltrate it. Truman was wrong. The Communists would have never inspired a movement based on passive resistance. They don't believe in that. They don't do anything that's decent. But after it started, they tried to jump on the bandwagon.'" [Ebony magazine, "I Was a Spy For the FBI, March 1961, p96]

FBI Headquarters received an advance copy of Julia's *Ebony* magazine interview which it reviewed for errors. In a January 16, 1961 FBI memo, the Bureau stated that Julia should limit her comments to what she personally observed and experienced in Cleveland because "**she is not qualified to assert herself as a spokesman for what is happening in the CP across the country.**"

Among Julia's errors discussed in the Bureau's review memo were:

- the number of "Negroes" Julia claimed were in the Communist Party
- her claim that the Communist Party was sending young members to school to become ministers which the Bureau described as an "isolated" example rather than common practice, and,

- Julia's claim that Communists used white women as sex bait to lure blacks into the Party, which the Bureau thought was false. [HQ 100-382107-70, M.A. Jones to C. DeLoach, 1/16/61].

With respect to the number of black Americans who were CPUSA members, Julia claimed that the percentage was only about 1%. The reality, according to FBI records, is **11% to 12%**--depending upon what year one uses.

In another magazine interview, Julia said: "**I don't think the Communists have appeal to Negroes. I feel that American Negroes are awakened to the menace of Communism.**" [*Sepia* magazine, "Communist for the FBI", 09/62, page 12]

However, AFTER associating herself as a paid speaker for the Birch Society, Julia claimed that the NAACP was "**badly infiltrated**" by Communists and she routinely denounced the NAACP during her JBS-sponsored speeches as representative of the problem of Communist infiltration of the civil rights movement.

As one example of Julia's comments about NAACP, Julia was the featured speaker at a JBS-sponsored event, Truth About Civil Turmoil (TACT) in Spokane WA in 1967. The local newspaper article observed:

"Mrs. Brown said there is no civil rights movement, but there is a Communist revolution 'using the Negro to attain this end. If you can't see this, you are stark blind'."

And:

"Mrs. Brown disclosed names and organizations in describing the Communist infiltration. Among them was the NAACP." ["*Communist Infiltration Said Heavy*", October 10, 1967, Spokane WA Spokesman-Review, p6 in FBI-Seattle file 100-24754, serial #290].

BY CONTRAST: The FBI evaluation was as follows:

"Let me emphasize that the American civil rights movement is *not* and has *never* been dominated by the communists--because the overwhelming majority of civil rights leaders in this country, both Negro and white, have recognized and rejected communism as a menace to the freedoms of all." [J. Edgar Hoover speech, 12/12/64, *Our Heritage of Greatness*, pg 7 - Hoover speech before Pennsylvania Society and the Society of Pennsylvania Women; bold emphasis on "not" and "never" in original document].

In November 1966, Hoover received an inquiry from a self-identified JBS member who saw the above quote in a letter-to-the-editor of his

local newspaper and the Bircher wanted to know if the quote was an accurate reflection of Hoover's judgment both in 1964 and 1966. Hoover replied affirmatively and concluded: "**This position remains essentially unchanged today.**" [FBI-HQ 62-104401-3021, 11/15/66 Hoover reply to incoming Bircher inquiry].

The FALSE information being disseminated by Julia and the JBS eventually resulted in a standard reply approved by J. Edgar Hoover to address her falsehoods:

"Concerning Mrs. Julia Brown, she furnished information on subversive activities to the FBI on a confidential basis from 1951 to 1960. Although she was not an employee of this Bureau, she was compensated for her services. Her current views are strictly her own and do not represent the FBI in any way." [FBI-HQ 62-104401, serial #2499, 4/24/65].

What explains the dramatic change in Julia's beliefs? Julia was paid an average of \$125-\$175 per month for her services while she was an FBI informant. By contrast, during Julia's time as a paid speaker for the JBS, she was paid \$100 per speech and she gave dozens of speeches every year in support of the hostile JBS position toward our civil rights movement and its leaders.

With respect to another black JBS speaker, Lola Belle Holmes:

After she was discontinued as an informant and Lola associated herself with the JBS, FBI internal memos concluded that "**she displayed signs of emotional instability and it was necessary to admonish her to cease making false statements which were embarrassing to the Bureau.**" [FBI-HQ file 134-4473; no serial number, 10/3/66 "Office of the Director" note].

ALSO:

"It has on previous occasions been necessary to admonish Holmes not to make untruthful statements in which she involved her association with the FBI." [J. Edgar Hoover memo to FBI-Boston field office on July 23, 1969].

There are similar adverse comments by the FBI regarding other African Americans associated with the JBS who are mentioned in Newman's article - such as Manning Johnson, Leonard Patterson, Rev. E. Freeman Yearling.

Lastly, the black speakers for the JBS never told their audiences about the pervasive bigotry and discrimination which black Americans

faced in our country—particularly in our southern states. Instead, by every device possible, the JBS attempted to de-value and de-legitimize such arguments – which is why the JBS never informed its membership about the comments made by J. Edgar Hoover – even though the JBS falsely describes itself as an “*educational*” organization. In reality, it is an indoctrination center which pandered to segregationists and repeated many of their arguments. For further details see chapter 11 of my JBS Report:

<https://sites.google.com/site/aboutxr/home/jbs-racism3>

Additional info: ernie1241@aol.com